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For Immediate Release

FDA Issues 2014 Assessment of BPA

-- NAMPA welcomes latest Agency update reaffirming safety of BPA in food contact applications --

Washington, D.C. (December 8, 2014) -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a new assessment of the chemical Bisphenol A (BPA), reaffirming its position that BPA is safe at current levels of exposure from food contact uses. FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) released its 2014 hazard assessment of BPA via the Agency's website following completion of a formal internal Agency review of the most current research on BPA.

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA) believes that after years of review and evaluation of BPA research, the latest FDA update represents a major development.

"The 2014 assessment of BPA by FDA is welcome news. The comprehensive review by FDA scientists should dispel any concerns regarding the safe use of BPA epoxy resins in canned foods. Agency researchers could not have been more clear or definitive in their conclusion that an adequate margin of safety exists for BPA," stated Dr. John M. Rost, NAMPA Chair.

Dr. Rost added, "[t]he FDA scientists reviewed the most current animal and human studies on BPA -- approximately 300 studies issued from November 2009 to July 2013, building off the past CFSAN assessments from 2008 and 2009. The outcome of this updated review was the determination that current uses of BPA in food packaging are safe, a finding that is consistent with assessments by similar government agencies around the world."

Among the highlights from the 2014 FDA assessment are the following:

- The 2014 review reconfirms that the basis for FDA's previous assessment of the safety threshold was appropriate.
- Due to metabolism difference, rodent studies should not be the basis for consideration of BPA effects in human infants. Instead, a safety assessment must rely on primate data, which suggest that all ages, including infants, can quickly and effectively metabolize BPA.

- FDA stated that the potential for contamination in BPA research activities is much greater than previously realized. FDA believes this potential for contamination may explain inconsistent results seen in previously low-dose studies showing adverse effects.

The full 2014 FDA assessment can be viewed here.

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About NAMPA

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc., and its members support sound science and trust the scientific review process that has protected our food supply for decades. For further information, visit www.metal-pack.org.